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ASHBY WOULDS

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH.

For the Year ending

31st December, 1937.

C. I. Lewis Printer, Ashby. Z 4781.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

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(1). *Medical Officer of Health (part time):*

THOMAS FORSYTH,

M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Glas.) (Camb.)

(2). *Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (full time):*

PERCY C. WOODHALL,

M.Inst.M. & C.E., Certif.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Ashby Woulds Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending 31st December, 1937.

To the Members of the Urban District Council of Ashby Woulds.

MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary State of your District for the year, 1937.

Section A.—1.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area :—2336 Acres.

Population :—R.G's estimate, mid-year 1937, 3270.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 836.

Rateable Value, £12,597.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £45.

The chief industries are :—Agriculture, Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking.

No particular occupation was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population during the year.

II.—Vital Statistics.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	35	17	18
	Illegitimate	1	0	1
		36	17	19

Birth Rate = 11·00 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Birth Rate, 1937 = 14·9 per 1000 population.

		Total	Male	Female
Still Births	Legitimate	1	0	1
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		1	0	1

Still Birth Rate = 27·02 per 1000 total (live and still) births; or Still Birth Rate = 0·30 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Still Birth Rate, 1937 = 0·60 per 1000 population.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	38	19	19

Death Rate = 11·62 per 1000 population.

England and Wales Death Rate, 1937 = 12·4 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

		Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	
		Ashby Woulds	England & Wales
		37	37
(1) From Sepsis	0	Nil	0·97
(2) From other Causes	0	Nil	2·26
Total	0	Nil	3·23

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	3	1	2

Infantile Mortality Rate = 83·3 per 1000 live Births.

England and Wales Infantile Mortality Rate, 1937 = 58·0 per 1000 live Births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants =
85·71 per 1000 Legitimate live Births.

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants =
Nil per 1000 Illegitimate live Births.

Deaths occurring from the following Diseases :—

Cancer (all ages)	3
Measles (all ages)	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	0

Causes of Death during 1937 :—

Diseases :—	Male	Female	Total
Influenza	0	2	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	0	1	1
Cancer	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	0	4	4
Heart Disease	9	7	16
Bronchitis	1	0	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	0	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	0	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Births, &c.	0	1	1
Senility	1	1	2
Other Violence	1	0	1
Other Defined Diseases	0	1	1
	19	19	38

The chief causes of death during the year were :—
(1) Heart Disease, 16 ; (2) Cerebral Haemorrhage, 4 ; (3) Cancer, 3 ; (4) Tuberculosis, 2 ; (5) Influenza, 2.

Compared with 1936 :—
(1) Heart Disease, 15 ; (2) Cerebral Haemorrhage, 7 ; (3) Cancer, 2 ; (4) Tuberculosis, 1 ; (5) Influenza, 1.

Birth Rate for past 5 years :—

1933	....	11·93 per 1000 population	England & Wales Birth Rate, 1937, 14·9 per 1000 population.
1934	....	11·16 ,, ,,	
1935	....	14·8 ,, ,,	
1936	....	15·77 ,, ,,	
1937	....	11·00 ,, ,,	

Infantile Death Rate for past 5 years :—

1933	....	76·9 per 1000 live Births		
1934	....	81·3	,,	,,
1935	....	62·5	,,	,,
1936	....	96·1	,,	,,
1937	....	83·3	,,	,,

England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate, 1937, 58 per 1000 live Births.

General Death Rate for past 5 years :—

1933	....	13·16 per 1000 population		
1934	....	9·61	,,	,,
1935	....	11·44	,,	,,
1936	....	14·2	,,	,,
1937	....	11·62	,,	,,

England & Wales, 1937, Death Rate, 12·4 per 1000 population.

Death Rate from Cancer :—

1928	....	1·1 per 1000 population.		
1929	....	1·1	,,	,,
1930	....	0·8	,,	,,
1931	....	0·29	,,	,,
1932	....	0·90	,,	,,
1933	....	1·83	,,	,,
1934	....	0·62	,,	,,
1935	....	1·85	,,	,,
1936	....	0·62	,,	,,
1937	....	0·91	,,	,,

Death Rate from Tuberculosis, 1937 :—

Respiratory	....	1 Death = 0·3 per 1000 population.
Non-Respiratory	....	1 Death = 0·3 per 1000 population.

Section B.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals :—

A (1) Fever.—

Hospitals for treatment of Infectious Diseases are provided by the Leicestershire Combined Hospitals Committee. The nearest to your Area are Markfield Isolation Hospital (54 beds) and Hinckley (23 beds).

(2) Smallpox.—

Hospitals are maintained by the Leicestershire County Council at Snarestone (23 beds) and at Syston (15 beds.)

B (1) Tuberculosis.—

The County Sanatorium at Markfield is adequately equipped for the treatment of Tuberculosis in all its stages, and contains 126 beds.

(2) Maternity.—

The Cottage Hospital, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, provides accommodation for Maternity Cases from your district. The Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital is also available for cases requiring Institutional treatment.

(3) Children.—

Cases requiring Institutional treatment are admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary and Loughborough Infirmary. Provision is also made in Ashby Cottage Hospital.

(4) Other.—

Delicate and ill-nourished children from 3 to 5 years are received at the Children's Convalescent Home, Woodhouse Eaves.

Ambulance Facilities.—

Infectious cases are removed in Ambulances provided by the Leicestershire Combined Isolation Hospitals Committee.

Non-infectious cases are provided for by the Dr. Hart Memorial Ambulance and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Most of the Collieries provide Ambulances for their accident cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres are provided by the County Council.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly at the Baptist Church Schoolroom, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

At the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville, a School and Orthopedic Clinic is held. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is also held here.

Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

General Nursing is provided in the homes by a Resident District Nurse, under supervision of the Leicestershire Nursing Association, aided by Local Voluntary Contributions.

The District Nurse does not attend Infectious Cases and does not undertake midwifery.

There is no provision for nursing such diseases as Measles in the homes.

A District Midwife is now available for your District, and lives in the adjacent village of Donisthorpe.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are provided for in the County Council Laboratory, Leicester.

During the year the following Chemical and Bacteriological examinations have been carried out for your district :—

Swabs for Diphtheria	12
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	11
Milk Examinations (Bacteriological)	4
Widal reaction for Typhoid	3
Faeces for Bacillus Typhosus	1
Sewage and Water Analyses	1
Total	32

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.—

The district is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Board from the Milton Water Works, except in a few outlying houses where wells are used.

The Public water supply has been satisfactory in quality. Owing to the Water Board cutting off the supply from 10 p.m. till 5 a.m. from 14th October, 1937, to 27th November, 1937, this district has been affected adversely, as the greater portion of the water supplied in this district is used for industrial purposes. This curtailment of supplies caused works to go on part time, and there was considerable shortage for periods on high points of the District, although no appreciable effects on health resulted.

One sample of water from a well was analysed and found unsatisfactory.

Two wells were closed during the year and the Public supply was substituted.

Drainage and Sewerage.—

No important extensions were carried out during the year.

A scheme is under consideration for the extension of the sewer in Furnace Lane, for the conversion of Privies to 8 houses and the provision of sinks and wash houses.

The Sewage Works at Donisthorpe Lane, Occupation Lane, and Stone Row are acting efficiently.

There are 10 Cesspools in the District.

No Cesspools were abolished during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—

Total number at the end of 1937 :—

(1) Privies, 18 ; (2) Pail Closets, 43 ; (3) W.C's., 571.

The number of Privies (Middens) and Pail Closets converted to the Water Carriage System during the year was 12.

The number of Privies (Middens) converted to Pail Closets was 10.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, is in force whereby the Council can assist Property Owners by bearing a proportion of the cost of converting Privy Middens into W.C's.

Public Cleansing.—

House refuse is collected weekly in covered motor lorry by the Council's workmen and carted to refuse tips, where it is deposited in layers and covered with soil.

Earth Closets and Privies are emptied at night, and Ashpits and Cesspools are emptied at frequent regular intervals.

The Night Soil and Contents of Cesspools are carted on to suitable land and ploughed in. The Refuse from Ashpits and Ashbins is carted to the Refuse Tips where it is deposited in layers and covered with soil.

18 Ashpits have been abolished during the year and 21 galvanised Iron Dustbins provided.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—

The total number of complaints received during the year was 9. Total number of premises visited was 494. 786 Inspections were made for all purposes ; 175 defects or nuisances were discovered ; 264 notices were served, 10 formal and 254 informal. 167 defects were remedied after service of notices. No legal proceedings were taken.

Shops.—

No action was taken under the provision of Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature, and to Sanitary Conveniences.

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken during the year.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

Premises.		No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories	....	12	4	None
Workshops	....	10	5	None
Workplaces	....	6	3	None
	Total	28	12	0

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Reported to H. M. Inspector.	No. of Prosecutions.
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	Nil	Nil
Other Nuisances	2	1	Nil	Nil
Total	5	4	0	0

Regulated Buildings.

There are no Common Lodging Houses, Underground Bakehouses or offensive trades.

There are six Canal Boats in the District ; their general condition was found satisfactory. 6 Inspections were made.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action necessary during the year.

Schools.

The Schools in the District are all supplied by the Public Water Supply and are on the Water Carriage System.

There are no Public or Private Swimming Baths or Pools in the District.

Section D.—Housing.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

1. (*a*) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 178

   (*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 368

2. (*a*) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 49

   (*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 147

3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .... Nil

4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 49

II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 10

III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 49

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 49

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .... Nil

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 0

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

IV.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(*a*) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 28

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 28

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 194

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 0

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 0

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling Houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report :

Surveyor preparing scheme for 5-bedroomed Houses to abate overcrowding.

Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Retail Purveyors on Register is 20.
9 of these come from outside the district.
16 Inspections were made of their premises.
5 Contraventions were found aud remedied.

Number of Producers (including producers who retail their own milk) on the Register is 12. 36 Inspections were made of their premises. 12 contraventions were found and remedied; 4 required cleansing and 2 structural alterations. Total number of Milch Cows in the district is 75.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936, one Licence was issued to retail.

(b) MEAT, etc.

Private Slaughter Houses.		In Jan. 1937.		In Dec. 1937.
No. Registered	....	2	....	2
No. Licenced	....	1	....	1

30 Inspections of the premises were made during the year, with 30 Inspections of the meat at the time of Slaughter.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight
Number killed (if known)	168		38	423	221	not known
Number Inspected ...	168		38	423	221	
All Diseases except Tuberculosis ...						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis ...	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	

The sanitary conditions of the Slaughter Houses is satisfactory.

There are no Meat Stalls and no approval has been given to meat marking.

There is no public abattoir.

30 Inspections were made of Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc. 4 contraventions were found and remedied.

No Inspections of places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale.

Section F.—Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937 :—

Diseases.		Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	....	10	8	0
Diphtheria	....	10	10	0
Pneumonia	....	4	–	0
Erysipelas	....	1	–	0
		25	18	0

Age Distribution of Cases.

Age Group		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Acute Pneumonia
Under 1	....	0	0	0	0
1–2	....	0	0	0	0
2–3	....	2	0	0	1
3–4	....	0	0	0	0
4–5	....	1	0	0	0
5–10	....	2	5	0	0
10–15	....	2	3	0	0
15–20	....	1	2	0	0
20–35	....	2	0	0	1
35–45	....	0	0	1	0
45–65	....	0	0	0	0
65 and over	....	0	0	0	2
		10	10	1	4

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during 1937.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS :—

New Cases and Mortality during 1937 :—

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Respiratory. F.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory M.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory F.
0—	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1—	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
45—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1		4		1		1	

The notification of Tuberculosis has been satisfactory during the year.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The chief features with regard to Infectious Diseases during 1937 were :—

SCARLET FEVER.

Ten cases were notified.

The great majority of these cases occurred in the month of April.

Four cases occurred in one household.

No Deaths occurred.

No use was made of the " Dick Test."

DIPHTHERIA.

Ten cases were notified.

The majority of the cases occurred from June to September.

No Deaths occurred.

No use was made of the "Schiek Test" or of artifical means of immunization.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided under Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910.

Case Rates for Ashby Woulds Urban District compared with Case Rates for England and Wales, 1937 :—

Diseases.		Ashby Woulds Urban District.		England & Wales.
Scarlet Fever	....	3·0 per 1000 pop.	....	2·33 per 1000.
Diphtheria	....	3·0 ,, ,,	....	1·49 ,,
Erysipelas	....	0·32 ,, ,,	....	0·39 ,,

The question of Artificial Immunization against Diphtheria has been before the Council for consideration and the various substances and methods in use have been discussed.

The Medical Officer of Health for the County has written to all Local Authorities offering to immunize children against Diphtheria, whose parents consent, during an epidemic, at a cost to the Local Authority of three shillings and sixpence per child.

INFLUENZA.—During the month of January, Influenza was very prevalent. 2 deaths were attributed to this disease.

CANCER accounted for 3 deaths during the year—2 in males and 1 in females.

Three Public Recreation Grounds are provided by the Ashby Woulds Urban District Council at Moira, Spring Cottage and Albert Village. The total area is about 12½ acres.

Children's Playgrounds are provided at all three grounds.

Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts and areas for general games have also been provided for.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. P. C. Woodhall, for his valuable aid in compiling this report. Many of the details are taken from his Annual Summary.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

M.B. Ch.B. (Glas.) *D.P.H. (Camb.).*